(c) whether the proposed Council is going to be under the control of the Ministry or is going to be an autonomous body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations are:—

(i) There be instituted a National Textbook Council (NTC) to monitor textbooks. This must be independent of any organization involved in textbook preparation, and also be fully autonomous so as genuinely to represent civil society and academia.

(ii) The CABE may set up a Standing Committee, which would be guided by the NTC. The Standing Committee should be empowered to prepare the guidelines and outline the parameters for periodic reviews of the textbooks, to be completed within six months of the beginning of the academic session. Review would examine social content of books as well as assess their standards, relevance and suitability for the age group. These periodic reviews should be submitted to the Government, and widely publicized through the media.

(c) The Committee has recommended that NTC must be independent of any organization involved in textbook preparation, and also be fully autonomous so as genuinely to represent civil society and academia.

Modernisation of CBSE

1397. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government have reviewed the role of the CBSE and its modernization programme for general development;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently there have been a number of newspaper items and public relations releases highlighting the new activities of the CBSE;

(c) the purpose of such public relations;

(d) the manner through which the CBSE is improving its own administration and efficiency; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to improve the usual functions of the CBSE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has emerged as a prime educational Board responding to the emerging educational needs of the student community based on access, equity and quality.

(b) and (c) Newspapers and media have been highlighting several initiatives taken by the Board. Newspapers and media releases facilitate in communicating the aims and objectives of the steps taken by the Board in their correct perspective and also to receive necessary feedback so that proper corrective measures are taken.

(d) The steps taken by the Board to improve its administration and efficiency include (a) technology integration in data processing (b) on line receipt of applications for affiliation and other exam related work (c) interactive web-site for information dissemination and (d) e-mail reply facilities including e-counselling.

(e) The Board intends to organize massive empowerment programmes for its teachers and heads of institutions which include exposure to current pedagogical trends, leadership, technology integration and counselling of the adolescent.

Use of research students as teachers in colleges

1398. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC proposes to use research students for teaching in the colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such research students are proposed to be absorbed against the existing vacancies after award of their degrees in their respective disciplines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Financial assistance to engineering colleges

1399. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to provide financial assistance to some States including Tamil Nadu for the modernization of their Engineering Colleges; and